

CLAIMS:

1. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising:
 - a light-transmitting discharge vessel (10) enclosing, in a gastight manner, a discharge space (11) provided with a filling of mercury and a rare gas,
 - the discharge vessel (10) comprising discharge means for maintaining a
 - 5 discharge in the discharge space (13),
 - at least a part of an inner wall (12) of the discharge vessel (10) being provided with a protective layer (16),
 - the discharge vessel (10) being provided with a luminescent layer (17) comprising a luminescent material,
 - 10 - the luminescent layer (17) further comprising inorganic softening particles (27) with a softening point above 450°C,
 - the size of the softening particles (27) being in the range from 0.01 to 10 µm.
2. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1,
- 15 characterized in that the softening particles (27) comprise:
 - a borate and/or a phosphate of an alkaline earth metal and/or
 - a borate and/or a phosphate of scandium, lanthanum, yttrium or a further rare earth metal.
- 20 3. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the alkaline earth metal is calcium, strontium and/or barium.
4. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the further rare earth metal is lanthanum, cerium and/or gadolinium.
- 25 5. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the softening particles (27) are selected from the group formed by strontium borate, barium borate, yttrium borate, yttrium-strontium borate and calcium pyrophosphate.

6. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the size of the softening particles (27) is in the range from 0.01 to 1 μm .
- 5 7. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the inorganic softening particles (27) have a melting point above 600°C.
8. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the protective layer (16) comprises yttrium oxide or aluminum oxide.
- 10 9. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the protective layer (16) comprises:
- a borate and/or a phosphate of an alkaline earth metal and/or
 - a borate and/or a phosphate of scandium, yttrium or a further rare earth metal.
- 15 10. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the alkaline earth metal is calcium, strontium and/or barium.
11. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 8,
- 20 characterized in that the further rare earth metal is lanthanum, cerium and/or gadolinium.
12. A compact fluorescent lamp comprising a low-pressure mercury-vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that a lamp housing (70) is attached to the discharge vessel (10) of the low-pressure mercury-vapor discharge lamp,
- 25 which lamp housing is provided with a lamp cap (71).